



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2002

CONTACT: Tracy Dunne

916/445-6687

GO SERV “SPOTLIGHT” SHINES ON AMERICORPS MEMBERS SERVING IN CALIFORNIA’S CLASSROOMS

SACRAMENTO - The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) applauds AmeriCorps members serving in the Teacher and Reading Development Partnerships program (TRDP), a teacher training program available through California’s Community Colleges.

“Given that the demand for high quality teachers has never been higher and that by the end of this decade, California will need close to 200,000 new teachers, this program is critical to California’s future success,” said Chuck J. Supple, Executive Director for GO SERV.

TRDP enables college students pursuing teaching careers to take college courses and gain a real life teaching experience at the same time. Interested students are enrolled in the program and provide 450 hours of service, 1-1 tutoring and training sessions to encourage family reading. Members focus on low-performing K-6 schools to help students who are reading below their grade level or whose primary language is other than English.

Since August 2000, 1,437 AmeriCorps members have helped more than 7,500 K-6 students improve their reading skills and provided over 300,000 hours of tutoring services at 170 schools. 90% of the children evaluated showed impressive gains of at least 10 points in their reading skills.

Currently, TRDP receives \$1 million from GO SERV to support 780 AmeriCorps members and offer courses on seventeen different campuses: Butte, Chabot, Feather River, Fresno, Glendale, Hartnell, Long Beach, Moorpark, Mt. San Antonio, Redwoods, Rio Hondo, Riverside, San Francisco, San Joaquin Delta, College of the Canyons, Shasta and West Hills.

To make a *Spotlight* nomination, please visit the GO SERV Web site at www.goserv.ca.gov.

###

